

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-20 remain in this application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 4-6, 9-11, and 15-19 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Allowable claims 9 and 15 have been amended to be in independent form including the recitations of base claim 1. Allowance of claims 9-10 and 15-19 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7-8, and 20 were rejected as anticipated by CORSE 4,141,293.

Claims 12-14 were rejected as obvious in further view of SCHNEIDER 5,878,666.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

As an initial matter, CORSE does not disclose a variable format printing machine, wherein the plate and blanket cylinders are selected as a function of the format to be printed. See that CORSE is not designed for variable format. The blanket cylinder 14 and the plate cylinder 15 are mounted on sub-frame 19 and the counter-pressure roll 13 and inking roll 16 are mounted on the main frame 1, 2 (column 2, lines 49-61).

As to the specific claim recitations, see that claim 1 requires "the paper cylinder (5) of each apparatus (1) is devoid

of any drive in rotation and is substantially fixed with respect to the frame (2)".

CORSE does not satisfy this recitation as counter-pressure roll 13 (offered as the recited paper cylinder) is not substantially fixed with respect to the frame 1, 2. Counter-pressure roll 13 has to be movable horizontally towards and away from the blanket cylinder 14 to allow the sub-frame 19 to be moved out of the machine (column 5, line 47-column 6, line 3). It is moved in one direction by springs 76 and in the other direction by rods 71, 72 (Figure 3, column 4, lines 31-39). The counter pressure roll 13 is not fixed with respect to the frame 1, 2.

Therefore there is no anticipation of claim 1.

Additionally, as discussed above, a variable format printing machine has plate and blanket cylinders selected as a function of the format to be printed. See specifically specification page 3, lines 19-21.

This requirement is expressly recited in amended claim 2, i.e., "the plate (19) and blanket (9) cylinders are provided with means for rendering the plate and blanket cylinders removable, and accepting plate and blanket cylinders of variable diameters in order to present a diameter as a function of the format to be printed".

CORSE does not anticipate this recitation.

In CORSE the distance between the axes of the counter-pressure roll 13 and the inking roll 16 is constant. Therefore, it is not possible to use different blanket cylinders 14 and plate cylinders 15 having variable diameters, as is necessary for a variable format printing machine, as now clearly recited. Again, in CORSE, the blanket cylinder 14 and the plate cylinder 15 are mounted on sub-frame 19 and the counter-pressure roll 13 and inking roll 16 are mounted on the main frame 1, 2 (column 2, lines 49-61).

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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